

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1899

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

AYLSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE

Chairman, Ladies, & Gentlemen of the Aylsham Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you a Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the Year 1899:—

POPULATION.—Basing my calculations on the decrease of the population of the District in the decennial period 1881—91 by 605, I estimate the population in middle of 1899 to be 16,970.

BIRTHS.—The total number of Births during the year was 495—Males 257 and Females 238.

The Birth Rate is somewhat higher than usual, being 29·1.

DEATHS.—The Deaths registered numbered 239, giving a Death Rate of 14·1, which is three points lower than that of last year, and a very satisfactory record for a Rural District.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of Deaths of Infants under One Year was 47, which gives a Death Rate per 1000 Births of 94·94. This is far below the average and shows a decided improvement on the previous year when the Infant Mortality stood at 133·77 per 1000 Births.

OLD AGE MORTALITY.—The number of Deaths registered at ages over 65 was 99. This gives a Death Rate below the average of past years. The Old Age Mortality for the year being 5·8 per 1000 population.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The subjoined Tables, giving the distribution of cases notified with the number of fatal cases, are compiled from Notification Certificates and the Registrar's Returns.

TABLE I.
NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED.

LOCALITY.	SCARLET FEVER.	TYPHOID.	PUERPERAL FEVER.	DIPHThERIA.	ERYSIPELAS.	TOTAL.
EYNSFORD (SUB-DISTRICT)	48	1	—	1	2	52
BUXTON „	53	3	1	3	5	65
WORKHOUSE	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	101	4	1	4	7	117

TABLE II.
FATAL CASES.

LOCALITY.	SCARLET FEVER.	TYPHOID.	PUERPERAL FEVER.	DIPHThERIA.	ERYSIPELAS.	TOTAL.
EYNSFORD (SUB-DISTRICT)	—	—	—	—	—	—
BUXTON „	2	3	1	1	—	7
WORKHOUSE	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	3	1	1	—	7

It will be seen that many more Notifications were received from the Buxton Sub-district than from the Eynsford Sub-district, and that no Deaths from notifiable infectious disease occurred in the Eynsford Sub-district.

The total number of Deaths is not large, and the resulting Zymotic Death Rate '41 is satisfactory.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Four cases were notified, the infection in two instances being traced to sources outside the District. The usual precautions were taken and the disease did not spread beyond the primary case.

The District has been remarkably free from Typhoid for some years. In the last three years only thirteen cases have been notified, and of those five were imported. As the absence from a District of this disease is generally an indication of its being in a good sanitary state the Council is to be congratulated.

DIPHThERIA.—Four cases only were notified. Three occurred among children in one family, the infection being derived from Yarmouth. One of these children died.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—One case, which proved fatal, was notified from Skeyton. The Cottage was somewhat overcrowded and its surroundings distinctly insanitary. Attention was directed to both these conditions and thorough disinfection carried out.

SCARLET FEVER—I show in a tabular form, as in previous years, the incidence of Scarlet Fever both as to locality and time of year.

SCARLET FEVER.

1899.	CAWSTON.	FOULSHAM.	HINDOLVESTONE.	HACKFORD AND WHITWELL.	SAXTHORPE.	SALL.	TURNING.	WOOD NORTON.	HEVINGHAM.	TUTTINGTON.	AYLSHAM.	COLTISHALL.	CALTHORPE.	ERPINGHAM.	STRATTON STAWLESS.	SKEXTON.	WICKMERE.	TOTAL.
JANUARY						7	4							1				12
FEBRUARY ..					3	2												5
MARCH		2											2				8	12
APRIL		2												1			1	4
MAY			3								2		1				2	8
JUNE									1									1
JULY	8			5	3									1				17
AUGUST								6				3						9
SEPTEMBER ..								1										1
OCTOBER									3	6	1					6		16
NOVEMBER ..								2	1		1				5			9
DECEMBER ..									5	1	1							7
TOTAL	8	4	3	5	6	9	4	9	10	7	5	3	3	3	5	6	11	101

It will be seen that the 101 cases of this disease were notified and that Seventeen Parishes were affected. The disease was widely disseminated throughout the District but there were not more than eleven cases in any one Parish, and from many only a single case was notified, showing that at no time during the year did Scarlet Fever assume epidemic form.

Two fatal cases were registered.

Without doubt Elementary Schools are to a large extent responsible for the spread of Scarlet Fever. Disinfection cannot be carried out in Rural Districts with any degree of thoroughness, and the clothes in which children return to school from infected cottages must often hold germs of disease. Old school books and slates as well as school furniture become infected. It would be well if School Managers would pay greater attention to the disinfection of their schools during the periods they are closed for infectious disease. The disinfection of a school should include, in addition to fumigation, the washing of the floor and furniture with disinfectant, the whitening of the walls, and the washing of the beams in the ceiling. Special attention should also be given to the cleansing of slates and the destruction of all old school books and accumulations of papers.

I would further advise that School Teachers should be instructed not to re-admit to school children known to have had Scarlet Fever without receiving a certificate from a Medical Man stating they are free from infection.

MEASLES was prevalent at the beginning of the year in Brampton, Lammas, Buxton, and Burgh necessitating these schools being closed. There were no fatal cases.

WHOOPING COUGH was the cause of four deaths. It was prevalent in Blickling and Oulton in the Autumn.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

The Inspector reports an average amount of Sanitary Work carried out during the year.

DRAINAGE.—Eleven cases of defective drainage have been dealt with. These include the relaying of Two New Drains at Reepham and some important drainage work at Coltishall. The drainage of Reepham, which formerly was of a very primitive order, has of late been much improved.

WATER SUPPLY.—Thirteen cases of deficient water supply were considered during the year. Five New Wells were sunk and others were cleaned out and repaired.

During the Summer much inconvenience was experienced owing to the lowness of the Springs and consequent scarcity of Water in the more shallow Wells.

PRIVIES and ASHPITS.—Twenty-four Privies and Eight Ashpits were reconstructed or repaired.

HEAPS of REFUSE, Etc.—The Inspector reports many other insanitary conditions, not involving structural alterations, were dealt with during the year.

VACCINATION.—As it may at any time be of supreme importance to know the state of preparedness of the District to resist an invasion of Small Pox, I propose for the future to append to my Annual Reports a few figures relative to Vaccination :—

IN THE EYNSFORD SUB-DISTRICT.

Children under one year vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	207
„ over „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	5
Summonses taken out	...	...	...	...	...	0
Children exempted under conscience clause	...	...	...	...	...	9

IN THE BUXTON SUB-DISTRICT.

Children under one year vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	216
„ over „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	0
Summonses taken out	...	...	...	...	...	0
Children exempted under conscience clause	...	...	...	...	...	11

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REMAIN,

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

HERBERT H. BACK,

Medical Officer of Health.

ACLE,

April 8th, 1900.